



Environmental Services Division
Energy and Waste Management Bureau

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MILD WEATHER HELPS KEEP HEATING OIL PRICES STABLE; GASOLINE SHOWS SLIGHT INCREASE

DES MOINES — Mild weather has contributed to stable heating oil prices for Iowans during the past month, although prices are still significantly higher than last year, according to the DNR.

“The warmer weather across much of the U.S. this winter has helped keep prices stable for heating oil,” said Tami Foster, energy data analyst for the DNR. “The mild temperatures have brought a decrease in demand which has allowed inventories to build during a time when they would normally decline.”

According to Foster, while inventory reports indicate an increase in supplies of oil and refined products, prices remain volatile due to oil platform attacks in Nigeria and Iran’s announcement of reopening nuclear facilities.

On Jan. 17, the average retail price of propane was \$1.53 per gallon, \$0.01 lower than last month and 22 percent above the retail price of propane at this time last year (\$1.25 per gallon).

The fuel price survey reported the average retail price of No. 2 heating oil was \$2.10 per gallon, \$0.01 lower than last month and 35 percent above last year’s price at this time (\$1.56 per gallon).

On Jan. 17, natural gas was trading at \$8.78/MMBtu, \$4.60 lower than last month and 48 percent above the price of natural gas at this time last year (\$5.94/MMBtu).

On Jan. 15, regular gasoline blended with ethanol in Iowa was selling for \$2.18 per gallon. This was \$0.04 higher than last month, and 26 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.73 per gallon).

The latest data shows that ethanol-blended gasoline represented 78 percent of all retail gasoline sold in November. All auto manufacturers warrant the E-10 blend of 10 percent alcohol and 90 percent gasoline for use.

The average price for regular gasoline in Iowa was \$2.21. This was \$0.02 higher than last month, and 27 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.74 per gallon).

Diesel prices continued to fall, selling on Jan. 15 for \$2.45, down \$0.03 from last month, but still 27 percent higher than this time last year (\$1.93 per gallon).

Oil prices settled at \$66.32 on Jan. 17, \$5.46 more than one month ago and 37 percent higher than last year (\$48.39).

Consumers should make improvements to their homes' efficiency to help lessen the blow. Simply caulking and weather-stripping to eliminate air leaks can save 10 percent on a typical home's energy bill. More tips for saving energy and money at home and on the road are available at www.EnergySavingTips.gov.

MOTOR FUELS SURVEY STATE AVERAGES

Self-Serve	December 15	January 15	Change
Regular Unleaded with Ethanol	2.14	2.18	+0.04
Regular Unleaded	2.19	2.21	+0.02
Premium Unleaded	2.25	2.29	+0.04
Diesel	2.48	2.45	-0.03

Source: Oil Price Information Service, www.opisnet.com

AVERAGE SELF-SERVE REGULAR WITH ETHANOL PRICES IN MAJOR CITIES

	December 15	January 15	Change
Ames	2.14	2.17	+0.03
Cedar Rapids	2.15	2.17	+0.02
Council Bluffs	2.11	2.15	+0.04
Davenport	2.18	2.22	+0.04
Des Moines	2.15	2.11	-0.04
Dubuque	2.20	2.20	No change
Fort Dodge	2.17	2.13	-0.04
Iowa City	2.16	2.21	+0.05
Sioux City	2.15	2.19	+0.04
Waterloo	2.00	2.07	+0.07
Webster City	2.20	2.25	+0.05
Average Metro Price	2.15	2.18	+0.03

Source: Oil Price Information Service, www.opisnet.com

WHOLESALE PRICES IN DES MOINES, IOWA

	December 15	January 17	Change
Unleaded Gasoline	1.68	1.72	+0.04
10% Ethanol-blended gasoline	1.70	1.74	+0.04
E85	1.83	1.89	+0.06
Diesel Fuel	1.89	1.80	-0.09

Source: Oil Price Information Service, www.opisnet.com

HEATING FUELS SURVEY

	December 19	January 17	Change
Natural Gas	13.38	8.78	-4.60
Propane	1.54	1.53	-0.01
#2 Heating Oil	2.11	2.10	-0.01

Sources: Wall Street Journal, Iowa Department of Natural Resources